

C.O.C.A. TIMES

COIN OPERATED COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 2

JULY 2001



Capturing Time....

by Randy Wellman

(story inside)



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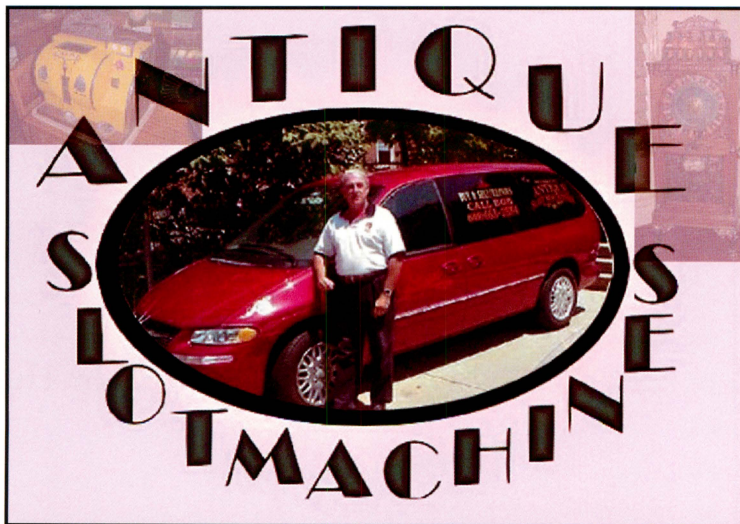
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Letter from Your President

Summer has finally arrived and with that the C.O.C.A. check is growing. Our membership has increased over 10 percent since the last magazine. Our magazine has gotten great reviews and its contents are growing. We are always looking for articles with photos to be published in upcoming issues. Please send them as soon as possible to my attention. We are very excited to hear that the California Slot Show will be September 14-16, 2001 in Pasadena, California. Hope to see you all there.

The club has many new things planned for the next year. Information on those events will be published in the near future. Our first, silent auction at the Chicagoland meeting was a great success. The club netted over \$120. We are looking to expand this auction at the next meeting. For more details, please e-mail, or call me for more details. We have come up with a way for collectors to sell their machines and still benefit the club.

I'd like to give a special thank you to both:

Gameroom Magazine at:

www.gameroommagazine.com - and

The Gazette at:

www.gameroomAntiques.com

for their continued support of the club. Our continued club support will keep all collectors well informed of the happenings of coin op collecting.

Until our next issue, enjoy your summer and hope you find the treasures of your dreams.

Paul Hindin
President, C.O.C.A.



Membership Fee **\$20.00 - 2001**

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- Classified - 8¢ per word,
- 10¢ bold words.
- Ad minimum - \$3.50

Deadline for next issue:
September 15, 2001

In this Issue:

- Special Finds
- Restoration Tips
- Shows/Auctions
- Who Am I?
- Tales of the Hunt
- Classifieds
- And More!

Deluxe Watling-Caille Combination Scale

by Jim and Merlyn Collings



Photo #1

This unusual 1902-03 combination scale was found five years ago by Kent Anderson (photo #1). He noticed the scale in the back of a pick-up truck on his way to a farm auction in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Kent found out from the driver that the auction would be held a week later. Being a devoted collector he waited around and finally secured the scale at the auction. The scale was sold later at the Chicagoland Show and was brought to Massachusetts by its new owner Elliot Baratz (a prominent collector and friend). About two years ago Elliot showed us the pictures of the scale and we fell in love with it. Elliot was kind enough to relinquish his rights to it and it now resides in the mountains of western North Carolina with us.



Photo #3

erns. It seems obvious that the Watling Co. wanted to enhance their cast iron scale with the ornateness that made the Caille Bros. so famous. The Caille Bros. Teller Scale of 1903 (photo #3) shows the ornate similarity of the two scales.

As far as we know, there are only two deluxe watling-Caille Combination Scales that have been found and identified. Bill Berning has the other one known, as pictured on page 93 of his book - Scales-A-Collectors Guide. He captions it the "extra fancy weighing scale style nine" taken from an old Watling brochure. In 1986 Bill got a lead on his scale while reviewing some old Watling paperwork from the 1960's. A gentleman wrote a note to the Watling Co. saying "he needed a key for an old scale." The company replied that "the scale was too old and they did not have the key." After reviewing the old correspon-

dence Bill called the man who had requested the key years earlier. Much to Bill's delight the scale was still stored in a garage in Chicago where it had been for many years! When Bill discovered his Watling-Caille Combination Scale it had all of its' original white and gold paint.

This scale has a unique personality being the first cast iron Watling scale. The marquee, mechanism, head and footplate originated with the Watling Scale Co. The ornate column was actually manufactured and borrowed from the Caille Bros. The W was embossed over the CB on all four sides of the column (photo #2) inside the panels of the column the CB initials are still evident. This cast iron version has a very similar mechanism to the early Watling 1902 wood cabinet model.



Photo #2

John and Tom Watling were social friends with the Caille Bros. family and often went fishing in the Fox Lake Region of Illinois. Burns Watling, Tom's son told Bill Berning (a real scale aficionado) that the Caille family provided the out-board motors for their fishing trips. While in the area they helped fix slot machines in the local tav-

Our scale also has all of its' original paint. The column has a dark green background with the ornate design in silver. the corners of the column on all four sides are painted red with gold pin-striping (photo #4). The octagonal head is painted green and red with silver highlighting. The letters and numbers on the face of the glass are etched in gold (photo #5) the mechanism is brass as well as the footplate, which is inscribed Watling/Chicago (photo #6). Apparently, these early scales were painted with different color combinations.



Photo #4

continued....

Deluxe Watling-Caille (continued)

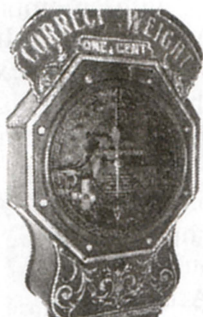


Photo #5

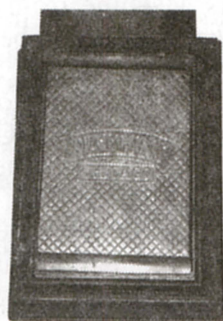


Photo #6

The scale dimensions are as follows: the height, including the marquee measures 73". The head is 15" wide and 20" in length. The front and back panels on the column each measures 8" wide, while the two side panels are 6-1/2" wide. The footplate is 12"x24". It is interesting to notice the "Lion Feet" are positioned closer to the footplate (photo #7).



Photo #7

Merlyn and I had a difficult time making the scale work properly. Merlyn perservered and found a counterweight wedged inside the "Lions Paw". She also discovered a duplicate Five Cent casting that screwed over the One Cent casting, and after piecing things together the scale worked beautifully on a nickel instead of a penny!

Why go to Egypt or the Near East to hunt for artifacts and treasures when all you have to do is follow a pick-up truck in Northern Minnesota?!

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I have the following information on the Watling Company available Free to any C.O.C.A. member.

- Watling customer records from 1928 - 1972. This is a listing of all customers and all transactions. Most slot machine information has been removed.
- List of scale serial numbers with dates and locations.
- Cash received journal 1964 - 1966.
- Shipping and receiving books from loading dock 1959 - 1972.
- All F.W. Woolworth scale records.

Due to fire, floods, rodents, moving, rain, etc. these records are not complete.

To request copies of any specific information, send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

*Bill Berning, 135 W. Main St.,
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NATIONAL ENQUIRER

ADVENTURES IN ANTIQUING....TEXAS

by John S. Carini

On March 3, 2001 we flew to Texas for a family vacation. My wife and son came along, but our daughter stayed behind because she knew we would be doing a lot of antiquing, which isn't her favorite thing. My son Nick, on the other hand, loves to antique and is quite knowledgeable on coin-op even though he is only 12.

We landed at the Dallas - Ft. Worth airport. The weather was warm and humid. We rented a car and drove from the airport to downtown Dallas. Our first stop was the West End - a trendy area with lots of restaurants, shops and taverns. We also visited several antique shops throughout the Dallas areas that first day, but found nothing of interest. We hoped the local flea markets would offer more.

The next morning, we set out bright and early for Canton. Canton is about 60 miles west of Dallas, and the weekend before the first Monday of each month the town hosts a very large flea market. Those of you who read our articles will recall we had been there before in '97, and found many nice coin-op machines. On the way to Canton, we stopped at the "Waffle House" - a southern chain. For those of you who have never stopped, they serve great breakfast and really good waffles at a low price. We arrived in Canton and parked the car. Unfortunately, what we didn't know is that the flea market has grown tremendously in size, and had split into three different areas --- (1) animals for sale, (2) crafts, and (3) collectibles & junk. We ended up by mistake in the animal section. Being a city boy, I was fascinated by the large selection of pets and farm animals for sale, but moved on quickly.

After talking to some vendors, we found out the right place to shop and moved our car. My son didn't believe me that it would take hours to cover the collectibles and junk area, even at our brisk pace. Most of the rummage is outdoors, but they do have several buildings. We only saw a few coin-op machines outdoors, including a Victor Half Back - I picked it up since it was really cheap. Inside one of the expo buildings I saw a few more machines, including two separate vendors with Carlton Rockets. One vendor in particular had two really high price trades - one a Penny Pack and the other a small three wheel Trade Stimulator missing the back door -- and he wanted almost \$1200.00 for

each! A few rows down we found a booth with a number of machines including a green and tan Masters Machine from the 30's with an embossed longhorn steer (gotta be Texas) on the chute. It was really clean but priced at \$425.00, a bit too expensive for me. The vendor also had an old 30's Slot Machine and a lot of Old Drug Store Advertising.

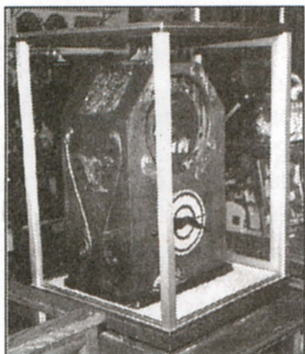
But what interested me most was an Art Granite Match Vendor. It was in excellent shape with nice paint and gold pin striping, but it was marked past book value. After some negotiations, I was able to buy it at book price (see photo). The vendor also told me about a locksmith she knew with some old 30's Master Machines and said she would contact him for me and let me know if he was interested in selling. We completed the market in several hours, somewhat disappointed. Like many other flea markets, it seemed like the crafts and liquidation type merchandise was taking over.



Match Vendor

After the flea market we drove on to Forney, a town half way between Canton and Dallas, which is lined with antique malls. We had also visited Forney in '97 and found a lot of H&W machines at the shops there. This time, we found a '33 Ball Gum, some Silver Kings and several other somewhat common machines. Most were overpriced. The 1st shop we visited on our drive back to Dallas had several Coke machines so I asked the owner if he had any old Gumball Machines. He told me he had just picked one up but had broken the globe on his drive back to his shop. He showed me the machine, which was wrapped in padding. I could see right away the stand was a cast iron Columbus Machine stand, and as he unwrapped the padding from the machine, I saw a nice '30's cast iron Columbus M with barrel locks and original paint. He told me he had just picked it up at an auction and he wanted to get \$450.00 for it. I made him an offer of \$250.00, but he said he wouldn't take anything less than \$350.00 so we left.

On Sunday we left for San Antonio. What could have taken us 4 hours to drive straight through, took us almost 9 hours because of sight seeing and the many antique mall stops. Our first stop was the Dr. Pepper Museum in Waco. We took a brief tour. Like



*Horse Race
Slot Machine*



*1920's Northwestern
Match Machine*



most museums, the old advertising pieces were fascinating. We picked up a few trinkets at the gift shop and started back on the highway. The highway seemed lined with antique shops and we stopped frequently. At one mall, they had a Horse Race Slot Machine in a glass case (see photo). This old machine was in excellent condition. Too bad it wasn't for sale.

At another antique mall (in Austin), we picked up a 1920's Northwestern Match Machine with a funky paint job (see photo). The machine worked and the price was right -- \$67.50. Then on to San Antonio.

On Monday, in San Antonio, we did some sight seeing. We visited the site of the Alamo and toured the river walk which was lovely. We also had dinner at an authentic Mexican restaurant with strolling guitar players. And, of course, we did some antiquing. One shop in particular (The Antique Center) was full of Juke Boxes, Slot Machines, Coke Machines and Gumball and Peanut Machines. My wife fell in love with a large Slot Machine that dispensed cigarettes. It was tall, very old and had a wooden cabinet. The store owner said it generated a lot of interest. The machine was priced at \$2400.00 I wonder if it's still there? The store owner also mentioned that normally the man who owned all the coin-op machines would be available, but he had already left for the Chicago show. We all enjoyed our brief stay in San Antonio, and would love to visit again.

Next we drove on to our most anticipated stop - Warrenton. I had read about Warrenton and Round Top, and wanted to visit these cities and their twice annual flea market. The cities of Round top, Warrenton and Shelby are small rural communities, each about 5 miles from each other. For a one week period in Spring and a second week in the Fall, the

towns join and put on one incredibly large flea market. As you drive up to Warrenton, the traffic slows. There are hundreds of vendors set up along side the road, sometimes 5 and 10 vendors deep. You can park your car in a field for \$3.00 and walk up and down the highway for miles. When done in that area, you can move your car up to the next concentration of vendors or even Round Top, park, and begin flea marketing again. We began flea marketing on Tuesday, and noticed on Wednesday and then again on Thursday morning, that more and more vendors were coming to set up. We were told that some vendors didn't set up until Friday, and that the weekend was incredibly busy. We were disappointed we wouldn't be there to view everything, but satisfied we were there early to get some first looks and avoid the really heavy crowds. We were told some vendors had already been set up the weekend before. Overall, we were amazed at the numbers of vendors set up and figured if you can't find it here, you probably can't find it. And, the area was almost entirely antiques and collectibles - no overstock and few crafts. We found old Scales, Soda Machines, Advertising, Old Registers and some Coin-Op. We also ran into a few fellow coin-op collectors - Sam from Ft. Worth (whom we had met in '97 at the Canton flea market) was set-up and selling coin-op vending machines. He had nice machines which were priced right. We purchased some Victor and Master machine top caps from him to use as parts. Also, we met up with Phil Cunningham.



Mark Zarkos & Pat Jones Booth

I walked into one vendor booth where I saw a number of coin-op machines. The booth was operated by Mark Zarkos and Pat Jones (see photo). I had met them previously at the Chicago show, but I introduced myself because you meet so many people I felt they probably didn't remember me. When I told them I was John Carini, one of them remarked they had read our previous article in the C.O.C.A. newsletter, where we explained we would be com-

ing to this show. They were glad we stopped by their booth. In their booth we found a 1916 Millard Breath Pellet Machine in very rough condition (see photo). the machine had a lot of cracks in the body and lid, but had a nice globe and decal. It was rare, and the price was right, so I picked it up. I brought it home and repaired and cleaned it up.



Millard Breath Pellet

In Round Top, we found the machine I want but can't seem to buy at the right price - a Stuart and McGuire machine. It was painted bright orange and black and was sitting up high on display in a booth. It was painted so bright I could see it from far away - and when I spotted it I got excited and ran over there only to be disappointed at the price - \$795.00. Then we found a beautiful H&W Machine on a stand. I had never seen such a clean machine. My wife wanted me to buy it - it was only \$90.00. But I didn't because I didn't think we could get back because of the heavy cast iron stand. We also saw some Trade Stimulators, Duck Shoot and a 1930's Masters Machine there.

It was Thursday noon and time to drive back to Ft. Worth. This time, the 3-1/2 hour drive back took us 7 hours with all the stops. Our first stop was the antique shops in Carmine, just 15 miles from Round Top. The town was really small, but had several antique shops. I pulled up to the first shop on the street. I was so tired from walking all morning, I told my wife and son to check out the shops while I sat in the car. I figured there wouldn't be anything interesting. My wife and son

went into the first shop, and then the second. My son came running out to the car and said to come in and look at an old machine. So, I went in and it was an Old Ball Gum Trade Stimulator with cigarette reels, keyed, in good shape and working. There wasn't a price on it so I asked the store owner how much he wanted. We negotiated and landed on \$325.00, and I bought it. My wife and son continued on to the next shop. I hadn't even finished my purchase when my son came running back yelling "I found a Climax - really cheap!". I quickly left and ran to the next shop. My son was teasing me. He does this often, to the point where I don't always believe him. While there wasn't a



*1¢ Ball Gum
Trade Stimulator*

Climax, my wife had found an old Exhibit Supply Card Vendor that sold "32 poses of your favorite cowboy - Tom Mix", for 1 penny. The machine was in good original condition (see photo). I negotiated with the store owner and purchased it for \$225.00.



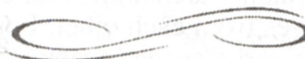
*Exhibit Supply
Card Vendor*

My funds were getting low as we forged on to Ft. Worth. I also worried about how we would be able to get all our finds back safely. Luckily my wife had brought extra packing materials, bags and boxes for our plane ride home. Friday, in Ft. Worth, was our last day of vacation, and guess what we decided to do? Antique of course. We went to several antique shops, including one small shop on Bowie Street that specialized in old clocks. There we found an old Penny Pack Trade Stimulator, complete and working, priced at \$25.00. Really!! I looked several times at the price tag, wondering if it was \$2500.00 or really just \$25.00. The owner told me his young son had found it at a garage sale for \$10.00. We purchase it quickly (see photo).

We then briefly toured the Ft. Worth Stockyards before it was time to head to the airport. On the way to the airport, we had to make one last stop -- the Krispy Kreme bakery. We don't have them here in the North - but I had heard about them. What's really neat is you can watch them make them and get them really fresh. It was our very first time and they were very good. Then, it was on to the airport for our trip home.

Overall, we found that Texas has a lot of coin-op machines. We found many Coke Machines, Scales, Vending Machines, Brass Cash Registers, Old Advertising, Trade Stimulators - but very few Pinball Machines, Slot Machines and Arcade Machines. Like anywhere else, most dealers are antique wise and there are few bargains to be found. Whether you are at a flea market or antique shop, it's important to negotiate to get the best price, and to talk to as many people as you can because that is often how you find leads for other buys. It was a great trip, offering lots of antiques as well as lots of interesting sites.

So, where will be next? Look for us at gold Rush Days in Minnesota in August -- see you there!



RESTORATION TIPS

Tip #1

by Don Pom

When you find a machine that has a number of old coats of chipped paint, what do you do? Get out a bottle of stripper or go to a sand blaster?

I have found a great inexpensive way to wash away the paint by using a solution of water and a chemical called TSP, tri sodium phosphate, a heavy duty cleaner used to wash walls. It's available at all hardware stores.

To use, just fill a pickle bucket with hot water and mix in a good amount of TSP. I don't have an exact formula for the mix, but try it and see how it works. If not strong enough I just add a little more.

Here's the easy part, just soak the parts for a day or two and then see the old paint just fall off. If you run into some stubborn spots, just wire brush the loose paint and continue to soak the parts until the paint comes loose.

I have been told that TSP actually etches the metal and that this offers a good base for the new paint.

Tip #2

by Jack Freund

Machines that have "frozen" mechs are a problem for collectors. Getting them freed up is sometimes very frustrating and often leads to breakage. Here are two tips that may ease the frustration.

Fill a 5 gallon plastic pail with water, put a couple of squirts of Dawn dishwashing soap into the water, submerge the frozen parts...and wait for the soap to eat away at the salt and corrosion. This takes patience. I periodically remove the parts and tap and jiggle to create new fissures for the soap to work on. I once soaked an old mech for almost two months, but it eventually loosened up. At that point all you have to do is rinse it in clear water...no oily film to worry about.

If you don't have the time or patience and don't have to worry about saving the finish of your machine a propane torch applied directly at the frozen part will often get the job done. The salt and corrosion will break down before there is any damage to the metal parts (other than paint). There is some risk of breakage if you try too hard to get movement by tapping with a hammer.

Lastly, if a globe is frozen to the rubber gasket and stuck to the vend plate, get out that Dawn soap and put a bead of soap all the way around the base of the globe. By the next day you should be able to remove the globe. (Caution: immersing the entire globe in the Dawn solution will remove or destroy the decal).



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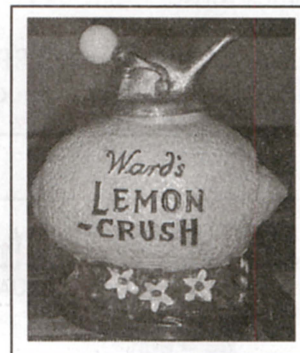
March 9 thru 10, 2001

Las Vegas is becoming a destination for more than gambling and recreation. For nearly 30 years, Roy Arrington has been bringing collectors one of America's premier antique and collectible auctions, right on the strip in Las Vegas. The Tropicana Hotel was the sight for the spring auction held March 9 thru 10. Buyers were able to preview the lots on Friday afternoon and evening, and again before the 10:00 AM auction start, both days.

As usual at VCA auctions, there was a staggering variety of merchandise. with over a thousand lots total, there was something for everyone. Perhaps the most stunning piece at the auction was the very rare Caille "Eclipse/Big Six" double upright slot machine. While the machine was missing it's music mechanism, it still brought nearly \$30,000. There was also a wide variety of other coin-op, Advertising, Country Store, Coca-Cola, magic and Movie memorabilia. The entire auction was pictured on the new VCA auction web site: WWW.VCAAUCTION.COM. Over 5,000 visitors previewed the auction through the web site.

Several hundred bidders competed for their favorite lots. Everyone that bought was pleased with their purchases, with many of those buyers echoing the same comment, *"There's no where else to find some of these things than at an Arrington auction."* With the auction complete, Arrington is beginning plans for a November, 2001 auction.

For more information, contact:
Roy Arrington, (702) 382-2466 or
E-mail, info@vcauction.com.



Indianapolis Advertising Show

March 17 thru 18, 2001

You would never know there were overcast skies, light rain and a gloomy economy, looking at the lines at the spring (March 17-18) Indianapolis Advertising Show. Throngs of eager buyers lined up outside and waited patiently for the 10:00 AM Saturday open.

Inside the new exhibit hall at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds, over 100 dealers from across the country displayed their remarkable wares. One waiting shopper's comments captured the feeling of the show. He almost bubbled when he said, *"This weekend, here at Indy, there's more great advertising and related antiques per square foot than anywhere else on the planet!"* He went on to say, *"I can't wait to get inside!"* And when the shoppers did get inside, they weren't disappointed.

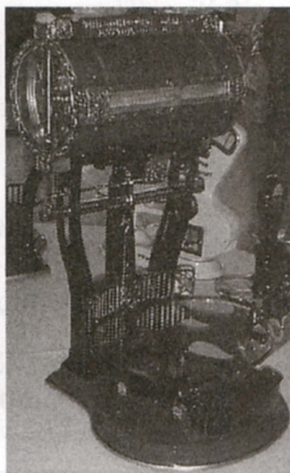
Not only was there a tremendous variety of advertising antiques, many dealers brought a variety of

related pieces. From rare antique apple peelers and egg beaters, to petroliana, to magic, to sporting goods, to coin-op, there was truly something for everyone. And...to make things even better for shoppers, there was an equally diverse range of prices. And business was brisk. From items priced at under twenty dollars to several thousand, people were buying the pieces they wanted.

Dealers were happy and so were shoppers. For many collectors, this show has become a "don't miss" tradition. For those just discovering it, it's rapidly becoming that.

Other 2001 show dates are: June 16 and September 22-23, 2001.

For more information, contact:
Kim or Mary Kokles (972) 240-1987 or
E-mail, kckmjk@aol.com.



Chicagoland Juke box and Slot Machine Show

April 6 thru 8, 2001

For sixteen cents you could have it all! A dime for a bottle of coke from a vending machine. A nickel bought your favorite "do-wop" tune from the Wurlitzer juke box, or a game on the pinball. And the penny bought a handful of peanuts from a counter top peanut machine. You poured the peanuts in the coke bottle--shook it a bit and that was a perfect meal, with entertainment. Those were the days!

That's what the Chicagoland Juke box and Slot machine show is all about. Twice a year grown up baby-boomers gather to buy and sell these memories from their teen years. The spring show, held at Pheasant Run resort in St. Charles, IL, April 6 thru 8, brought buyers from across America, Canada and Europe. The biggest and most successful show of it's kind, anywhere in the world, this show has been serving collectors for well over twenty years.

There was something for everyone. The advanced collector could find a wide range of beautifully restored juke boxes; from a few thousand dollars to a fabulous Wurlitzer #850, offered at \$25,000. If you wanted a classic Coke machine, there were dozens to choose from. The favorite...the Vendo #81 was being offered completely restored at prices in the \$4-5,000 range. If you wanted a peanut or gum-ball machine, prices ranged from under a hundred dollars to several thousand. And, for the final piece for your gameroom, if you wanted a slot machine, you had several hundred to choose from.

The slot machine selection has broadened since the advent of legalized slots in many states. Collectors

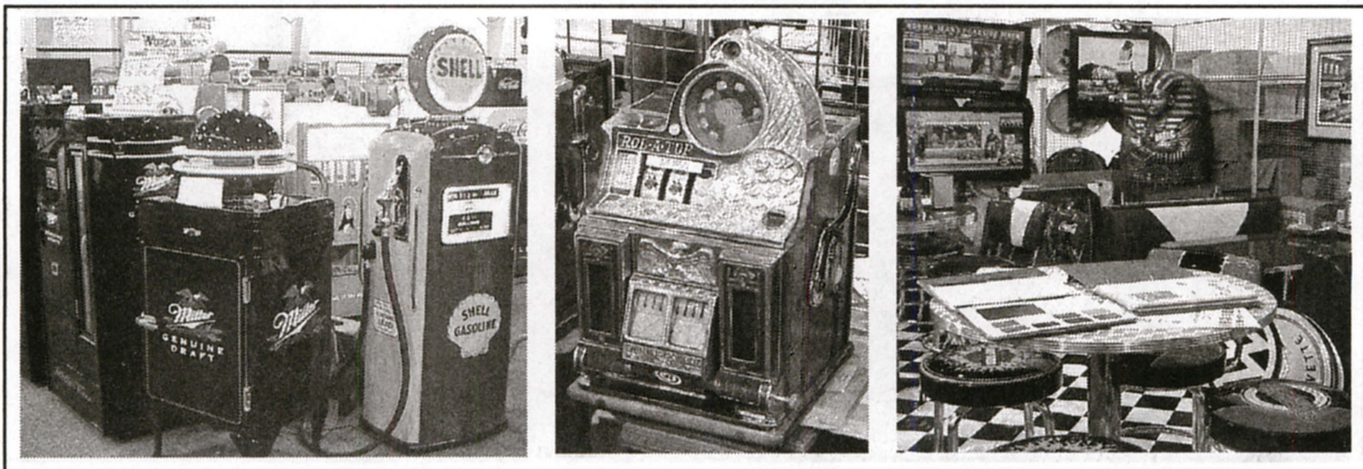
now can choose from machines built at the turn of the century...clear up to machines from the 1970's. The newer electric casino machines can be bought at very reasonable prices. Many are under a thousand dollars. The classics, pre-WWII, are a bit more pricey; from \$1,000 upwards to the more expensive but wonderful uprights from the turn of the century. There were several of those offered at prices from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

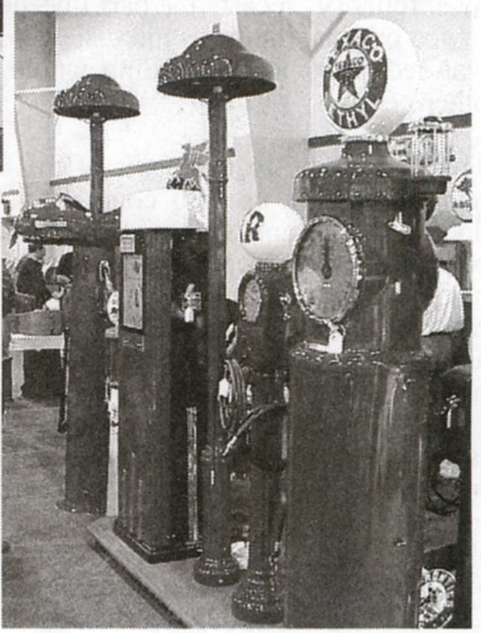
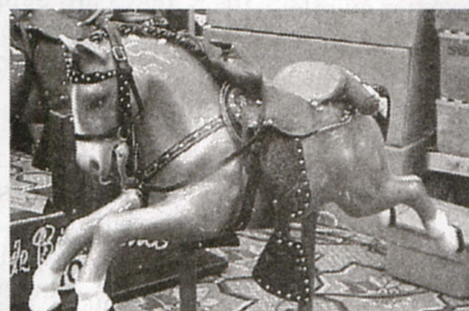
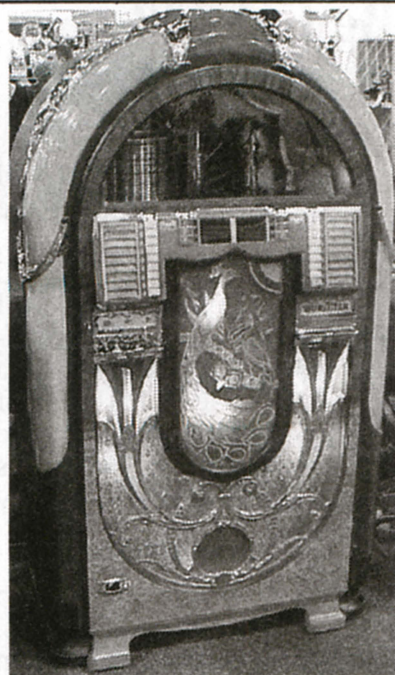
What gameroom is complete without neon signs, soda advertising, a penny scale and just one arcade or pinball machine? There were a variety of all. Vintage signs and clocks were everywhere. Pinballs from the 40's to the 90's and Arcade machines that told your fortune, your strength or your "amorous" abilities, all were operational to try your skill or luck! And for just a penny you could go home seeing how much weight you've gained.

This show does have something for everyone. Thousands of things to look at, and buy...all that bring back memories from those wonderful, care-free days of the 50's and 60's. Buyers and sellers all enjoyed the weekend. Many machines went to new homes and many collectors, old and new, can relive those days where sixteen cents could buy it all.

The next Chicagoland Juke Box and Slot machine show is scheduled for November 9 thru 11, 2001 at the same location.

For more information, contact:
Steve Gronowski (847) 381-1234 or
e-mail: www.chicagolandshow.com





Can Gum and Peanut Machines Be Faked?

by Terry Harte

Part I

I've been collecting and restoring gumball, peanut and other coin operated machines for the last 25+ years. This hobby started for me when I was at the Pasadena Rose Bowl swap meet one Sunday looking for oak furniture. My partner and myself had a small space in an antique mall and needed more merchandise. I was very much involved in refinishing and restoring antique oak furniture. After awhile we started seeing that reproduction oak furniture was selling better than antique oak, so I was thinking about doing something else that relates to antiques, but didn't know what.

While looking for furniture at the Rose Bowl I saw a box of gumball parts and semi complete machines including globes. I didn't know anything about them, but the price was right. I took the machines home and restored them to what I thought was back to original factory condition. I later found out they were Advance Machine Co., Model D. I kept the one with the football globe because it was different than the others I had. I still have it in my collection.

During the past years of searching, restoring, trading, selling and building the collection, one discovers that sometimes a machine is missing parts, or they're broke. I always tried to find original parts to complete my machines, but when necessary had the local foundry "recast" the part I needed from a borrowed original piece. I soon discovered the foundry was recasting parts including whole machines for other people.

This brings me to the point of this article. When recast parts are used to complete a machine, i.e. door flap, bottom plate, vending wheel, etc., they can't always be identified later on as being "original" or "recast". I had the foundry make some replacement parts that were so good in appearance and quality, that it was hard to tell them from the original. When the original piece is very sharp and clean, and the person who makes the sand cast mold is very talented, it can be hard to tell the difference by looking. On the other hand, I've had parts that look so bad that I had to return them to be re-done.

Within the last year or so I've been talking to other C.O.C.A. members about what seems to be a new

outbreak in the market of reproduction machines and parts. Some have been listed on eBay and sold as "original", or "implied" as original. Later the new buyer discovers machine is not real but fake. This tactic of passing off completely faked machines as original to unsuspecting buyers will ultimately destroy our hobby, resale value and credibility for future collectors. Dan Davids had a good quote on this topic; "My issue is that some of these fakes are being sold with the express purpose to defraud the buyer by passing the machines off as originals, with the original's price. It's all driven by greed".

Most of us are aware of people in our hobby who manufacture globes, decals, specialty springs, rods, replace flap doors, etc. that serve our needs when the original part cannot be found and the machine needs to be competed. I don't believe that anyone objects to some recast or replacement parts on their machine. After all what are you going to do when you find this great all original (including paint) Columbus Model A, but the globe is missing? You buy a replacement globe and decal, now you've got this beautiful early machine for your collection. If the original globe shows up someday, great, replace it!

I also don't have a problem with completely remade or faked machines such as the "Smilin' Sam" Salted Peanut Man. The difference here is that these are being displayed and sold as "REPRODUCTIONS". Even with the "aged" paint jobs, there are ways to tell the difference between new and old. We also know of Pulver cases that have been completely redone with "new porcelain". Here again I think this is acceptable because it's being sold as an old case with new porcelain. Besides, you can tell the difference between old and new porcelain. Some of the ways to tell the difference between replacement and faked parts as compared to genuine original parts will be better explained in detail in later articles in this series.

This finally brings me to the reason why I wanted to write this article about "Can peanut and gum machines be faked? The answer is YES. Somewhere between 15 to 20 years ago, I wanted a cast iron Columbus A with Dish Base. I could never find one for a price I could afford. So I borrowed

continued....

one from a friend and took it to the local foundry. I had two made, one for me and one for my partner (we both got into machines). All parts were duplicated exactly from the original parts, either cast iron or aluminum. I did all the filing, sanding, polishing, hole drilling, tapping, etc. until finally I had the machine assembled and working. I got an original globe for it and a new decal. My friend never did anything with his, just kept it in his garage. The machine was perfect, looked right, worked right! It was in my collection for 2-3 years.

Then one day in the mid 80's I decided to sell it at the Pasadena Fun Fair. My collection was growing and this Columbus was the only entire faked machine in my possession. I just couldn't live with it anymore considering all my other machines were originals. My partner and I had a booth at the show and I marked it at about half the price of an original Columbus A Dish Base. On the for sale tag, I also described it as a total "reproduction" except for the globe. When I sold it, I completely explained it to the buyer. I didn't know the buyer, but I suspect that if it's changed hands over the years, it's now an "Original Columbus A Dish Base". If the history is not known, it's very hard to tell the difference by looks, especially when the fakes are done properly.

Because of this previous experience and recent con-

servation about faked machines, I have now gotten the second recast Columbus A from my partner. I have attempted to show by pictures and will describe in detail how to "fake" a machine and how to identify that it's a reproduction. Part II will be much more technical in presentation. I will explain how castings are made, the different types of metals used, and what to look for including tale-tell signs of shrinkage, embedded sand, voids, etc. Also there will be an explanation of the types of glass used today in reproduction globes versus older globes and how to identify the differences.

In later articles, I will also try to identify (with help from others) all machines that we know of that have been completely faked. That is, the entire machine, not just a few parts. This will be a "Buyer Beware" list. There will be no mention of people by name who have done this, nor any other reference to organizations or companies. The sole purpose is to educate current and future collectors in our hobby about the proliferation of faked machines. This is a minor problem today but could quickly escalate into a major problem if we don't "police" others and ourselves. This coin op hobby of ours is fun and sometimes even profitable, but if we let fakes proliferate our hobby, it could go the route of other collectibles where reproductions have all but destroyed them.

Part II

Casting a Reproduction Columbus A Dish Base

Before a person can make a reproduction gum or peanut machine, a few basic facts should be known. The example I'm using is a Columbus Vending Co. Model A with a dish tray. The tray has the wide lip that is embossed with the patent date, "Sept. 15, '08". This machine was discontinued around 1920. A good picture can be seen in Bill Enes' book "Silent Salesmen Too", page 39, top center picture. As stated in the first part of this series, I already had made the cast iron and aluminum parts at a foundry about 15 to 20 years ago. At that time the cost was \$75.00. Today's costs would be much more.

A little background on how foundries produced molds, dies and castings, and which metals are

commonly used, will be helpful in understanding how to make and identify fake machines and parts.

The art of casting metals goes back for thousands of years, however for our purpose we'll only look at the developments and processes from 1896 to the present. Mold castings (or dies) are either expendable and are intended to be used only once, or made of a permanent or semi-permanent material to be re-used again and again. Both expendable and permanent molds must be separable into two or more parts in order to permit withdrawal either of the master pattern (from a expendable mold) or of the raw casting (from a permanent mold or die). Early patterns were usually made from wood. Wood is easily formed and shaped into the desired part.

From 1896 to 1910 nearly all molds were made with wood patterns and molded by hand. Molds were rammed by hand with sand-to-sand partings in the

continued....

flasks (each half of the mold). Production was one mold per hour. By 1910 high-production molding was introduced with the "drop machine" process. Sand was still rammed by hand, but the top half (called 'cope') was drawn down to the bottom half (called 'drag') with the aid of mechanical levers, cams and compressed air. This drew the pattern without the aid of vibrators and made it easier to remove the pattern from the mold with all the sand intact. Other advances were made with the type and quality of sand used.

Permanent high production molds used dry sand that could be coated with solutions of graphite, silica or zircon and furnace baked on, also known as shell molding. Several pours of hot liquid metal could be obtained before a new mold was required or repaired. Early vending machine manufacturers used either shell molds or sand molds.

In addition to mold casting there is another process known as "die casting". The earliest commercial use occurred in 1892. This process uses a permanent metallic metal mold (or die) for quantity production runs. Die-casting is practical for tin, lead, zinc, magnesium and aluminum base alloys. The method is especially applicable to the production of small interchangeable parts that are required to be well finished and with accurate dimensions.

Today when we send to the foundry a whole machine or part to be duplicated, the expendable hand compacted sand mold method is used. For large parts like a Columbus base, only one mold is made. The liquid metal (usually cast iron or aluminum) is poured, the item cools, the mold is vibrated, separated and the duplicate base part is removed. The mold can no longer be used again for more parts. When numerous small parts are made, several can be placed at one time in a mold. Again after cooling and removal, the mold can no longer be used. If more of the same parts are required, then the whole process has to be repeated. Each time a part is made, the quality of the duplicated part depends on the talent and experience of the mold maker.

Although a pattern is used to produce a casting of desired dimensions, it is not dimensionally identical to the original casting. Shrinkage allowance is the correction factor built into the pattern to compensate for the contraction of the metal casting as it solidifies and cools to room temperature. When the vending machine manufacturer makes a pattern, it is intentionally made larger than the final desired cast-

ing dimensions to allow for solidification and cooling contraction of the casting. The reason why an "original" Columbus Model A "cast iron top" will always be interchangeable with other Model A's is because the same pattern and mold method was used. The original shrinkage using cast iron was accounted for in the pattern, resulting in the same piece and dimensions repeated time and time again.

When I send my "old but original" Columbus A cast iron top to the foundry, this top now becomes the "pattern". The sand mold is made; the liquid iron is poured and cooled.

When the new duplicate top is removed from the mold, the dimensions are slightly smaller than the top I just used to make it from. This is one of the reasons why old original parts and new parts usually are not interchangeable. A close visual comparison along with a good eye and tape measure, most people can tell the difference.

Even when the best-experienced mold maker is used, he cannot control the shrinkage in the metal of the duplicated part. Different metals will cool and shrink at different rates. Typical pattern shrinkage allowances for common casting metals used in vending machines are listed below.

| <u>Alloy Being Cast</u> | <u>Allowance</u> | <u>Approx. Shrinkage %</u> | <u>Shrinkage in./ft.</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Steel | 1 in 64 | 1.6 | 3/16 |
| Gray Cast Iron | 1 in 100 | 1.0 | 1/10 |
| Aluminum | 1 in 77 | 1.3 | 5/32 |
| Brass | 1 in 70 | 1.4 | 11/64 |

Now that everyone is an expert on mold making and casting parts, we can now better understand how to identify re-cast parts. Besides the shrinkage factor, there are other imperfections referred to as "casting defects". Casting defects are traditionally divided into seven basic categories of defects:

- Metallic projections
- Cavities
- Discontinuities
- Defects
- Incomplete casting
- Incorrect dimension
- Inclusions or structural anomalies

continued....

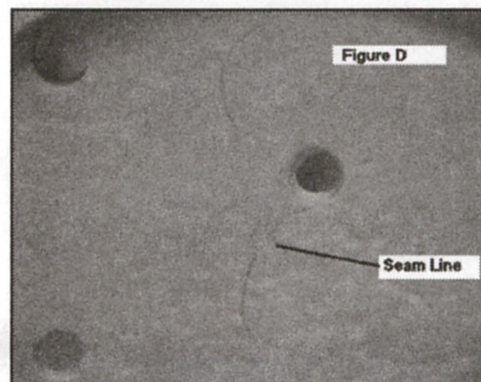
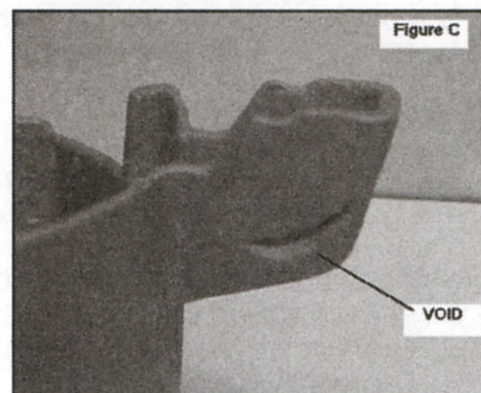
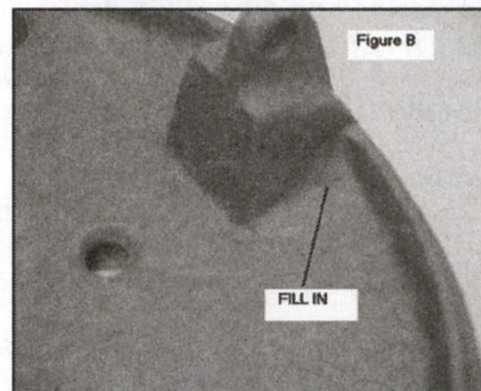
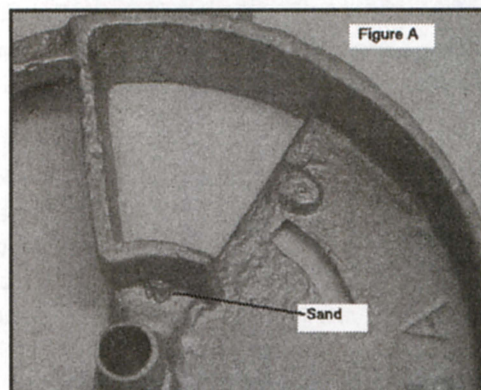
Within all of these categories there are 100+ examples and descriptions for each type of defect. For this article I will describe and show with pictures some basic examples such as embedded pieces of sand or metal on the casting surface. What you see in the new casting looks like small particles of sand, but are actually metal in the shape of sand particles (see figure A). Another area to look for is, "fill in or metal penetration". This is where the sand mold did not exactly duplicate the original part. Some of the harder areas to reproduce are tight inside corners. Sometimes the sand will fill the corner after the pattern is removed from the mold. What is left is extra metal in the new part (see figure B). Other areas to look for are "voids" and "seams". A void is where the metal didn't fill into mold properly resulting in missing metal or when the pour is not made entirely at once, but in short pours (see figure C). Seam lines are where the molten metal starts to solidify before the rest of the metal starts it's solidification resulting in wavy fold lines (see figure D). Other defects can be caused by impurities in the molten metal, gas entrapment, inclusions, poor metal structure, interrupted metal walls, and mold wall deficiencies.

As you can see from above, one can identify re-cast parts if you look closely and especially if you can compare it to an "original" part. The smaller the part, the harder it is to determine if it's re-cast or not. Remember the smaller the part, the less shrinkage will occur that a person can measure. There is also less surface area for obvious defects to look for. Original vending machine manufacturers used only first-rate castings. Any casting with defects were scrapped and never used. It would be very rare to see an obvious defect in an original vending machine part.

The next part of this series will explain and show with pictures the process of preparing the re-cast parts for assembly; painting and oxidizing the metal to make it look old. I'll also show the comparison of the faked Columbus A to the real machine.



**Stay Tuned for
Part III and IV.**



COIN-OP GROCERY STORE

By Tom Gustwiller

I was recently told that many people don't know where to get parts for machines, supplies and award cards. I have included the most up-to-date list that I could find for the person who wants to fix a machine. You will find that most slot machine parts can be found but that trade stimulator parts are much more difficult to obtain. This is because of the huge variation in design of trade stimulators. Award cards are not as difficult as back doors and mechanism parts to obtain on trade stimulators. You probably will have to borrow another machine to get your part made. I'm sure I missed someone in the business, but this is a pretty good representation.

Reel Strips and Award Cards

Evans & Frink, 2977 Eager, Howell, MI 48843; 517/546-7470

Bernie Berten, 9420 South Trumbull Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60642; 708/499-0688

Bill Whelan, 23 Palmdale Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015; 650/756-1189

Gumball Parts

Barbara Larks, 8444 Lawndale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076; 773/764-8460

Kaps Vending, 593 Lavina CD, Hemet, CA 92544; 909/658-4620

Dan Davids, djdavids@earthlink.net; 310/376-1310

Slot Machine and Trade Stimulator Parts

Bernie Berten, 9420 South Trumbull Avenue, Evergreen, IL 60805; 708/499-0688

Tom Krah, 140 North Western Avenue, Carpentersville, IL 60110; 847/428-8476

Jack & Nils Brink, 13052 Raymer, Sr Dept. G, North Hollywood, CA 91605; 818/764-2680

Fred or Larry Debaugh, 222 East Thomas Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21225; 410/789-4811 or 410/817-4421

Juke Box Parts & Equipment

Roy Dean, jukebox@mylink.net; 912/935-2721

Ken Arnold, www.Kenarnold.com; 888/850-6421

Kern Tisdale, 8402 North 18th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ; 602/944-8444

Coke Machine Parts & Equipment

Fun-Tronics, Middletown, MD; 301/371-5246

Home Arcade, 1108 Front Street, Lisle, IL 60532; 630/964-2555

Pinball Parts

Jeff Wager, jeffrwager@mediaone.net; 978/475-0144

Kenis Pinball, Webster, TX; 281/338-6767

Machine Plating (Nickel, Copper, etc.)

Craig Bierman, Houston, TX; 713/921-0235

Roger Kislingbury, Pasadena, CA; 626/792-4461

Scale Parts

Bill Berning, Chicago, IL; 708/587-1839

Capturing Time....

by Randy Wellman

I found these photos by looking in the local paper at an ad that said they had old glass negatives For Sale. I called and asked if he had any store interior photos? He said he thought there was one in the bunch, but they were almost all photos of air craft, as his grandfather was a photographer for the St. Louis Globe Democrat Newspaper in the 30's. I arrived and he took me in to sit at the kitchen table loaded with probably 200 negatives. His grandfather was a life long friend of Charles Lindbergh and he had all these aviation firsts that he had snapped over the years. Lots of Ford Tri-motor plane and other neat planes, but not what I was into. Then he showed me the store photos. There were two FOK slot machines, one at the front door and one next to the cash register. The deco soda fountain was great too, it had a 50th anniversary Coke sign right in the middle of it, and those stools were just killer. I knew I had to have them! "How much?" I asked. "Well, I want \$7500 for the whole bunch." My heart sank, when he told me he wouldn't split up the collection. Then I thought of a guy that sold old photo reprints at the postcard shows in LA, so I gave him a call the next day and told him about the negatives. Long story short, he bought the Planes, I got the interior negatives for a finders fee. I didn't even know what I had, really until I got the negatives developed. There were about 10 of them, all the same place, inside and out. The kid walking in the way the of

the guy taking the pictures son and I got the negatives from the kid (son)! Finding photos like these for me is as much fun as finding the machine itself!

I think a lot of slot collectors own machines and never give much thought about what kind of location they were used in. Most people that aren't slot collectors, especially young ones, don't have a clue that they were used in every state in the country at one time or another. I find it very interesting to look at old saloon and general store photos with machines in them. I will forever be grateful for Dick Bueschel's advice on where to find these photos in some of his first books. If you take a 6-inch magnifying glass and hold it just so, you can imagine being in the store of the photo you are examining. I often wonder when I see a bunch of guys standing in front of a bar in a saloon photo, what are they hiding behind them? I have a couple of such photos where you can just see the marquis of a commercial and another machine unknown to me. Slots were used in a very diverse array of locations anywhere from saloons, cigar stores, general stores, soda fountains, pool halls, barber shops, motel lobbies, lunch counters drum stores, and clubs. I even have one of an outdoor sportsmans stew in Grass Valley, CA from 1933 with a pace machine on a stump in the foreground.



Anytime there was a cash register, there was a good chance there was a slot or trade stimulator nearby, waiting to gobble up the change the customer received from making a purchase. Some of these places were frequented by kids and I can't help but wonder how they were kept from playing them. I know of one case where they weren't. A long time resident of Victorville where I live tells of the time in 1933 when she played the machine located in the lobby of the Smith Hotel on 6h and D Streets. She created quite a stir when she hit the jackpot and spilled coins all over the floor. She still has a postcard of the hotels lobby showing two gooseneck machines from around 1934 (won't give it up either, darn it). You can still find great photos, but its getting harder all the time. I remember the first time I went to a postcard show about 9 years ago in Portland, OR. I didn't figure there were many saloon photo collectors up there (ha ha). I spent probably 3 hours at this show asking every dealer if they had any photos of saloons with slots in them. No luck. Not one saloon photo in the whole show.....three hours of my time wasted. It compounds the problem when the slots you are looking for in these photos are sometimes disguised as things like clocks, bicycles, and napkin holders.

I was on my way out the front door when I thought, maybe I'm not asking these dealers the right questions. Most of these people probably don't know what a slot machine or trade stimulator looks like. So I went back in and asked in a different way for interior photos with different things in them. And that is how I found the first one. A photo of a bar with a Mills Check Boy on it, kinda rough but well worth the \$15.00. Then another one shows up and another. I ended up leaving that show with 8 photos of slot machines or trade stimulators! I started thinking, this is going to be easier than I thought. But now I know that show was the bonanza of a lifetime. I never even came close to duplicating the accomplishment of that first show. The next show I went to I round 3. Over the years I've found dozens more, but I had to look through thousands of pictures to find them. It can be a very rewarding hobby if you don't have to compete with major photo collectors in your area like I do here in Southern California. If you don't have the time and money to look for these great photos, try Roger Kislingberry's new book "Saloons, Bars and Cigar Stores"...historical interior photos. You invest a lot less time and money by letting Roger do the legwork. Happy Hunting!



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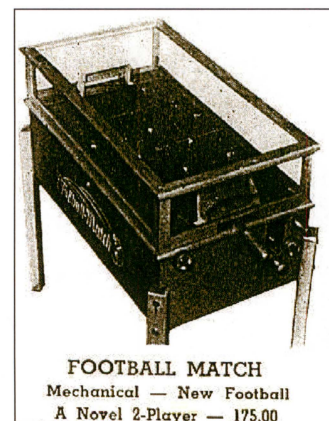
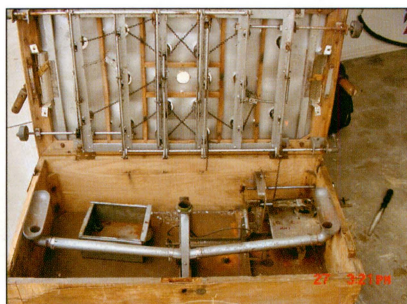
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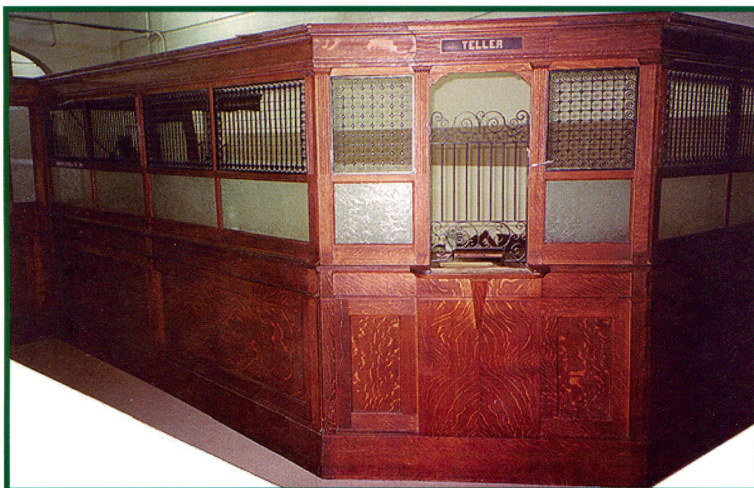
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ARE SLOT MACHINES LEGAL?

By Bob Levy

Many people have been asking what the current laws are on slot machine ownership. This is the most current list I have available. Most states allow a person to own a slot machine as long as it is at least 25 years old.

The following states are the exceptions:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Alabama..... | All machines prohibited. |
| Alaska | All machines legal. |
| Arizona..... | All machines legal. |
| Arkansas..... | All machines legal. |
| Colorado | All machines introduced before 1984. |
| Connecticut..... | All machines prohibited. |
| Florida | Machines must be at least 20 year old. |
| Georgia | Pre-1950. |
| Hawaii | All machines prohibited. |
| Idaho | Pre-1950. |
| Indiana | All machines prohibited. |
| Kansas | Pre-1950. |
| Kentucky | All machines legal. |
| Maine | All machines legal. |
| Massachusetts | Machines must be at least 30 years old. |
| Minnesota | All machines legal. |
| Missouri..... | Machines must be at least 30 years old. |
| Nebraska..... | Law unknown. |
| New Jersey | Pre-1941. |
| New Mexico | All machines legal. |
| New York..... | Pre-1941. |
| Nevada..... | All machines legal. |
| Ohio | All machines legal. |
| Oregon..... | Pre-1968. |
| Pennsylvania..... | Pre-1941. |
| South Carolina | All machines prohibited. |
| South Dakota..... | Pre-1941. |
| Tennessee..... | All machines prohibited. |
| Texas..... | All machines legal. |
| Utah | All machines legal. |
| Vermont..... | Pre-1954. |
| West Virginia..... | All machines legal. |
| Washington, D. C..... | Pre-1952. |

If your state is not listed, then it is a state that allows slot machines as long as they are 25 years old.

If you have any questions, contact Bob at: antiqueslotmachines@yahoo.com.

Out of the Woodwork, A Cast Iron "Fey"

by Ira Warren

The phone rings and a caller offers me a CAST IRON CHAS. FEY five reel trade stimulator...and I do not recognize the caller or the name of the machine. It's a rainy, dreary and boring Sunday and I am willing to go along with a good joke. I'm half listening when he mentions the award card with a temporary phone number for the Chas. Fey Company. In a cold sweat, with the phone glued to my ear, I calmly suggest that if I could see some photos of the machine, I might consider making an offer to purchase it.

*Previously unknown
Chas. Fey & Co. Cast
Iron Trade Stimulator
found in a closet in
Northern California*



My next call is to Dick Bueschel. He is very weak and can't stay on the phone for long, but tells me that he has never heard of a Chas. Fey RELIANCE IMPROVED card machine and to get it at all costs. Sadly it was the last time that I would be able to speak to Dick about machines.

It took six weeks for the pictures to arrive, and ten months for a purchase to be arranged. It was well worth the long wait as this ranks as one of the best machines that I ever had the opportunity to own. Of all the table-model gambling machines, what could create a better adrenaline rush than the purchase of an original condition, complete and working, only-known example of a Chas. Fey & Co. cast iron gambling machine?

The colorful history of slot machines and the Charles Fey story is the subject of Marshall Fey's book *Slot Machines, A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years*. I would recommend that all collectors,

serious or novice, have a copy. This article deals only with a very small part of that history -- a period of a few months during 1906 and the manufacture of only one machine -- The Chas. Fey & Co. RELIANCE IMPROVED.

With my 29 years as a slot machine lover, dealer and collector, a little research and conjecture, and some common sense, I will add a small piece of the puzzle to the existing knowledge of the Chas. Fey manufacturing company.

At 5:12am on April 18, 1906, a massive 8.3 magnitude earthquake destroyed the Chas. Fey & Co. building at 406 Market St. Along with numerous other slot manufacturers of the area, Charles Fey was out of business. This was not enough to end the career of the inventor of the world's first three reel slot machine. During the next four months he rebuilt a make shift factory and by September of 1906 once again was operating his business.

With most of his previous slot machines, tools and patterns destroyed, Charles must have reasoned that the easiest way to operate was to re-vamp some older machines and put them on locations with his award card and manufacturing label proclaiming his company and address. Examples of these re-vamped early models with the Chas. Fey award cards are in collections today.

THIS MACHINE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

Realizing that an 1897 Reliance Novelty Co. poker card machine would no longer make money on location, Fey needed a way to rekindle interest in order to improve the chances of his successful operation. By replacing the words "NOVELTY CO" on the front lower casting pattern plate with the word "IMPROVED", he had changed an old classic into a new machine for current 1906 location operation. Next he pinned a brass label in a prominent place visible through the curved glass that states, "CHAS. FEY & CO. S.F." In addition the paper award card above the top casting carries the Chas. Fey & Co. name and location.

It is the paper award card, FREE DRINKS on one side and FREE CIGARS on the reverse, that clear-

ly dates this machine as one made directly after the 1906 earthquake. It confirms that this is one of the first to be put on location by the new Chas. Fey & Co.

A comparison of an award card pictured in the Marshall Fey book with the award card found on the RELIANCE IMPROVED is all that is needed to confirm this to be one of the earliest creations of the post-earthquake Chas. Fey & Co. the telephone number on the latter award card is listed as TEMPORARY 1689. Another point of proof is the lack of the numerals 395 in the address. Maybe the exact address had not been granted by the city at that time. "FIFTH and JESSIE, opposite the U.S. Mint" certainly pin-points the location.

A photo on page 57 of the Marshall Fey book shows Charles Fey in his new ramshackle building and four current production machines are displayed in the foreground. BINGO!! The RELIANCE IMPROVED is in the picture. the front casting is a blur so Marshall is not wrong to assume it to be an 1897 VICTOR. I do not believe that I am wrong either to assume it to be the previously unknown RELIANCE IMPROVED.

It is not clear how this machine found its way into a closet in northern California. It is known though, that this machine has been in the same family since about 1916. I bought the RELIANCE IMPROVED from a gentleman in his mid 30's who told me that his father played this machine when he was a little boy in the San Francisco area. The grandfather had friends in the saloon business.

My guess is that the machine is the only known example to be found to date. The rarity would be based on the fact that in 1906, there were numerous more interesting machines for the saloon trade to gamble with. The RELIANCE IMPROVED was truly a short-lived idea. A common variety of this same style of cast iron card machine would be the VICTOR or the W.H. CLUNE. These machines have been found for years and indicate that many hundreds were produced.

As a dealer, I would rather buy and sell a hundred cast iron card machines each year. As a collector, I would rather own the only known example of a Chas. Fey cast iron flip card trade stimulator called the RELIANCE IMPROVED. The fact that it is in complete, working and super original condition doesn't hurt either.



*THE RELIANCE IMPROVED or
a VICTOR CARD MACHINE???*

*Photo from page 27 of the
MARSHALL FEY'S Book - SLOT
MACHINES, A PICTORIAL HISTORY
OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS)*

*This most important photo was taken in 1906,
after the earthquake, at the new factory location
at FIFTH & JESSIE. Charles Fey (second from
right) and worker show off the current produc-
tion line of unfinished slots.*

*NOTE: the third machine is the RELIANCE
IMPROVED. (courtesy-MARSHALL FEY'S Book
- SLOT MACHINES THE FIRST 100 YEARS)*





Comparison between the 1897 RELIANCE NOVELTY CO. poker machine and the RELIANCE IMPROVED poker machine, shows the outward changes made by the CHAS. FEY & CO. Mainly the re-tooled front casting, the award card, and the addition of the CHAS. FEY brass name plate.

| ...FREE CIGARS... | | | |
|--|------------|------------------------|----------|
| Royal Flush | 100 CIGARS | Straight | 6 CIGARS |
| Straight Flush | 10 | Three of a Kind | 3 |
| Four of a Kind | 15 | Two Pairs | 2 |
| Full Hand | 10 | One Pair Kings or Aces | 1 |
| Flush | 8 | | |
| Telephone Temporary 1689 CHAS. FEY & CO. SAN FRANCISCO | | | |

Telephone Kearny 1689

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Comparison of the early award card of the RELIANCE IMPROVED with a later card show several important differences. NOTE: the temporary phone 1689 and the lack of a numbered street address. (Later award card from Marshall Fey's "Slot Machines, The First 100 Years.")



This photo taken through the curved glass, show placement of the CHAS FEY & CO. S.F. label displayed for all to see.



The mechanism is the typical card flip style with the addition of mechanical improvements and the CHAS. FEY & CO. S.F. brass label pinned to the base.



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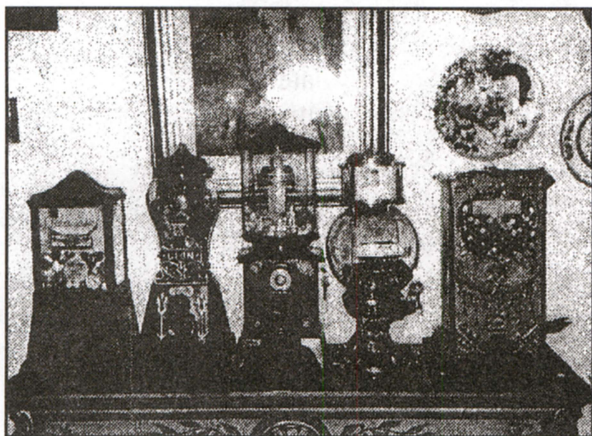
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E-mail any questions to: djdavids@earthlink.net

KING'S ROW -- RARE HI-END VENDORS

by Ken Rounds

Quite possibly the following vendors, all from my collection, will not be seen in one grouping again. These are vendors, most see only in photos or in *Silent Salesman Too* by Bill Enes. I will in reviewing give my estimate of each as to numbers of machines that have survived.



Starting left to right we shall begin:

#1 - Advance Peanut Machine, circa 1900, cast iron, black with gold embellishments. Advance's first machine by B. M. Davis. This is the only known survivor and it is in original paint.

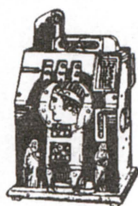
#2 - Lion Vendor, circa 1904, a Wagner product made for H. E. Winters Specialty Co., Davenport, Iowa. This is a seldom-seen five cent vendor. I estimate there to be, in the nickel version, about 20 to 25 surviving. (An example of this vendor can be seen on page 164 of *Silent Salesman Too*.) This is on the most wanted list.

#3 - Enterprise Perfection Vendor, circa 1902, cast iron and sheet metal, vends peanuts. (An example of this vendor can be seen on page 57 of *Silent Salesman Too*.) The front has filigree decal work. Deposit a penny, turn the knob and push the button above the vend door. Only two survivors to my knowledge. This one is in superb condition.

#4 - Generic Advertiser by Leebold, circa 1918. This is one of only three survivors. This has a three-panel advertising lid that encases a flashing light to highlight the advertising. I have three original ads on mine. Korn Porkies, Hershey's one cent candy bar and Dr. H. Beeman's pepsin gum, the chemist. When one cent is inserted and the handle turned, a weighted disc returns the wheel to its starting position. (An example of this vendor can be seen on page 84 of *Silent Salesman Too*.)

#5 - The Single Freeport Vendor. This, I believe to be the only existing (single version) with wooden body and cast iron facing. The popular belief exists that only the double with this facing was produced. (An example of this vendor can be seen on page 62 of *Silent Salesman Too*.) This has the exact characteristics including the stenciled flowers on both sides and the Freeport stenciling on the back. The machine holds 10 pounds of nuts or candy and the square just above the vend trough displays the last penny deposited. Freeport Novelty, circa 1905.

There we see five vendors, all very collectible and quite sought after. They appear to be practically extinct in any numbers. In conclusion, what do you estimate these are worth dollarwise in today's vending market? The question remains open. Make a guess.



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Three Men Charged in Shill Bidding Test Case

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Three men were charged March 8 with joining together to drive up prices in Internet art auctions on eBay, including one in which a Dutch user bid \$135,000 for a fake Richard Diebenkorn painting.

The men allegedly created more than 40 different user names on eBay with false registration information, then used those aliases to inflate bids on paintings they were auctioning.

The scheme garnered bids totaling \$450,000 in hundreds of auctions from November 1998 to June 2000, according to federal prosecutors in Sacramento.

Self-bidding, known as shill bidding, is forbidden by San Jose-based eBay Inc. and is generally illegal in traditional auctions. EBay's deputy general counsel, Rob Chesnut, said he believed this was the first criminal case to result from alleged shill bidding online.

Kenneth A. Walton, 33, a lawyer in Sacramento; Kenneth Fetterman, 33, of Placerville, California and Scott Beach, 31, of Lakewood, Colorado, were charged with a total of 16 counts of wire and mail fraud, which carry up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and possible restitution to victims.

Fetterman also is charged with money laundering, which carries up to 20 years and a \$500,00 fine.

Walton is cooperating with the investigation, said his attorney, Harold Rosenthal.

"He feels very bad about all of this and is going to do whatever he can to make it right," Rosenthal said.

Beach did not return a message seeking comment. No listing for Fetterman could be found.

According to the federal indictment, Walton put the initials "RD52" in the bottom right corner of an unsigned orange and green abstract painting that he and Fetterman had picked up at an antique store.

Prosecutors said Walton then listed the painting on eBay -- with photos showing the signature -- and

wrongly said he had bought it in Berkeley, where Diebenkorn worked in the early 1950's.

The three men allegedly made more than 50 phony bids on the painting, driving its price from 30 cents to \$135,505, before a Dutch man stepped in and bought it for \$135,805. Diebenkorn's real paintings have sold for millions.

Investigators for eBay later dissolved the sale and barred Walton from the site after discovering he had placed a \$4,500 bid on the painting himself. Walton has said that bid was made for a friend.

The indictment said the three men also drove up bids together on another work purportedly by Diebenkorn and artists such as Alberto Giacometti, Clyfford Still, and Maurice Utrillo. Fetterman and Walton allegedly came up with fake user names with "Giacometti" and "Still" in them, to make it seem as if the painters' family members were bidding.

In one case, prosecutors said, the men created a phony e-mail account for a supposed expert on Still and congratulated the buyer for recognizing an "excellent example" of the abstract expressionist's work.

eBay rules prohibit shill bidding and even legitimate bids from relatives and roommates of sellers. Chesnut said eBay constantly is monitoring for violations of that policy. Still, he suggested that buyers check the bid histories of their fellow auction participants to see if they notice suspicious patterns.

"Anything that might in any way undermine trust in the community is unacceptable," Chesnut said.

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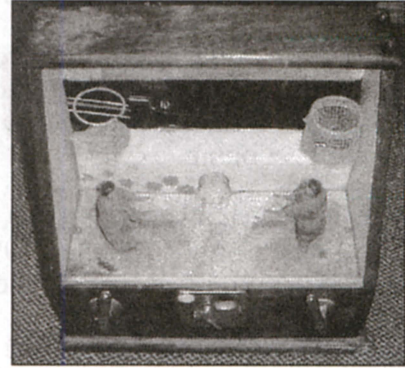
WHO AM I?

by Paul Hindin

This column was written to help collectors identify machines in their collection. If you have a machine and need information about it regarding manufacturer, year made and value, send photo and questions to: Paul Hindin, 3712 West Scenic Avenue, Mequon, Wisconsin 53092.



The Vending Machine photo was sent to me from a collector out East. Appears to take a penny. Has a vend wheel for gumball. Not sure of age or manufacturer. The machine is cast in iron. Who am I?



This machine appears to be American. Works off an American penny. Possibly one of the earliest known basketball countertop vendors made. If you have any information on it, please let me know so I can publish it in the November issue.

Vending Machine Globes and Parts For Sale

New Globes

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Acorn 6, 8, 9, 11#..... | \$25 |
| Advance Small Football..... | \$35 |
| Advance Large Football | \$35 |
| Climax 10 | \$65 |
| Columbus #8 with Star..... | \$40 |
| Columbus #9 with Star..... | \$45 |
| Double Nugget..... | \$40 |
| Grandbois Cylinder | \$25 |
| Hamilton..... | \$60 |
| Lucky Boy/Bloyd..... | \$30 |
| NW 33 Frosted | \$40 |
| NW 33 Junior Tall..... | \$65 |
| Regal Cylinder | \$30 |
| Regal Pear | \$35 |
| Silver King..... | \$35 |
| Simpson Large | \$45 |
| Victor Cylinder..... | \$30 |
| Victor Square | \$30 |

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Original and Misc

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Acorn Embossed | \$45 |
| Columbus "Ace" | \$50 |
| Vendex Fishbowl w/decal | \$75 |

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Original Globes

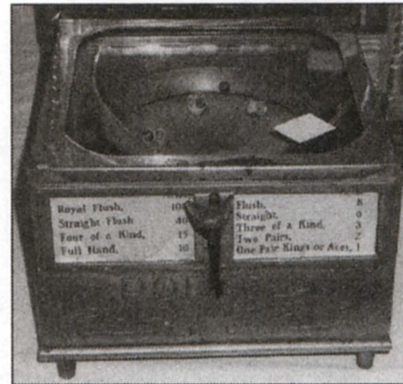
Please contact us for your needs.
Many available.

10% Off on 6 or more, 20% Off on 12, Mix and Match OK. Discounts on new globes only. All orders are plus shipping. Please contact Dan Davids at djdavids@earthlink.net, Or Phil Cunningham at (818) 845-4964.

CHICAGOLAND

by Tom Gustwiller

At the last Chicago Show no one could miss the vast array of good machines in Larry Debaughs' booth. Larry and Jay Freedman had picked up most of the remaining machines left in the Las Vegas collection. There was one machine that no one seemed to understand. It was the Portola by Specialty Machine Works of San Francisco. The Portola was a dice machine that was not coin operated. The dice would pop when you pushed the handle down every time. It had the original award card but it worked without a coin. If you looked at the machine close, you could see it was cast iron, but the top had been replaced with heavy sheet metal and replated along with the rest of the machine. In San Francisco all slot machines were outlawed after July 1, 1909. When Ordinance 729 became law, about 3,200 slot machines grossing 12 million dollars a year became useless. To circumvent the law, both Charlie Fey and a new company, the Specialty Machine Works, rebuilt dice machines taking out the coin accepting part of the mechanism. The machines contained no coin slot and paid over the counter in drinks and cigars. These machines were rebuilt to get around the new Anti-Gambling Ordinance. For more about this story go to page 56 of Marshall Feys book on Slot Machines.



*Portola
Dice
Machine*



Side View

*Deadline for next issue:
September 15, 2001*

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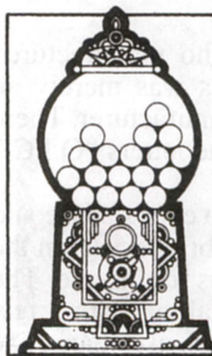
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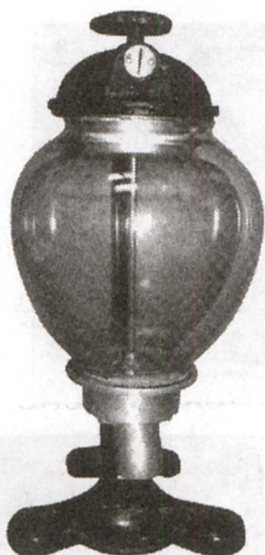
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The One and Only O.I.C. Peanut Vending Machine

by Ken Rounds



This machine first made its appearance in a 1911 trade magazine. As the photo shows, it is quite a departure from the norm. the machine is 17" tall and weighs 22 lbs. when fully filled. The mech operating handle is at the top connected to the bottom vending wheel at the bottom of the globe. It took 8 lbs. of blanched peanut to fill. The top cap locks and when removed reveals a flat second top with a coin slit. This is screwed to the machine. When the screw is removed, there is total access to both the coin box and inner globe. (Trust was involved with the route man to fill the machine with product and empty the coin box during his visits to the establishment.) The coin slot is located in front of the top cap. Few, if any, machines have this feature.

Vending occurs thru the bottom nozzle (not capped.) The customer holds his hand under to receive the peanuts. A cast tray receives the overflow. A full length balancing bar is located in the rear.

Some controversy exists as to who manufactured the machine. The Chicago address was merely an office. I suspect Hance was the manufacturer. There is no definitive interpretation of the letters "O.I.C."

The photo is of the only example to ever surface and it is in my collection. In closing a brief essay on the machine's discovery as the story as told to me. The O.I.C. was discovered in Canada along with a few other machines in a long-out-of-use bar. The

machines were sitting on a wooden floor covered with a tarp. This would account for its preserved condition. A 1600 mile round trip was made from the States to retrieve the Vender. As stated previously, this is the story passed on to me as best I can relate it.

The machine is in outstanding working condition and shows very little wear. So much for another fascinating example of a rare vending machine surfacing. These occurrences are what make the hobby worthwhile.

Silent Salesman Too - pg. 114:

"The O.I.C. is a unique cast-iron vendor_all of the coins remain in the lid, probably making it quite top-heavy. It held 320 pennies, the gross profit for the 8 lbs. of peanuts that the globe held. The original price of the machine was \$12.50 and included 48 lbs. of peanut."

Editor's Note: Bill Enes' book is the "Bible" for collectors of vending machines.

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TALES OF THE HUNT.....

FREEPORT GUM MACHINES

This tale comes from Ron Gunn of Iowa. It goes like this.....

We live in a small town (12,000), and as a professional person for many years, I know many of the people who live here. Most of the auctioneers and antique dealers know me and the kinds of things I tend to look for. Occasionally one will call telling me what is coming up in an auction, however, not much shows up. To them a Silver King Hot Nut machine with the red hobnail glass is exciting.

In the fall of 1998 I stopped by the local realtor's office to give them the information on the sale closing of my father's house at the conclusion of his estate. I had to leave town, and would not be around for the closing. The realtor was out of the office, but in another office another realtor/auctioneer was with a customer. When he saw me he hollered out the door suggesting I should look at a couple of gum machines he had for sale at an auction on the weekend. I had not looked at the sale bill as I knew I could not be there. He said he had never seen anything like them and described them as machines with wooden sides (I said probably Baby Grand machines), but told him I was leaving town shortly. I would not be around for the sale, and wasn't sure I would have time to stop and look at the machines--after all, who wants to make significant effort to see Baby Grands. He insisted I make an effort to see them.

My last minute plans took me to that part of the town, so I elected to take a look at the machines. I later learned they had been part of an old, old estate that contained items from a turn of the century blacksmith shop. It was immediately obvious they were not Baby Grand machines. In fact they were Freeport Gum Vendors. One was used to dispense "Goo-Goo Gum", the other "Perfecto Gum". Except for the gum dispensed, graphics, etc. the machines were identical.

I still had to leave town, so asked my daughter to go to the auction and buy them for me. We called home the evening of the auction. There had been little interest, and she had paid \$260.00 each for them. They were extremely dirty, but cleaned up well. Paint and graphics are still nice and distinct.

I had Bill Enes look at them during the Chicago Coin-Op Show. Both of them have cast iron marquees. Bill said they are the only Freeports he had ever seen with marquees. The paper signs on the marquees are deteriorated, and partly missing. An intelligent guess is the Perfecto marquee said:

A BIG PIECE OF GUM YOUR FORTUNE

-----AND-----

A Letter from Your Sweetheart

Both machines are numbered inside on both the wood case and the front casting. The wood case number is stamped, and the number on the front casting is hand painted. In both cases the numbers match (significant in some other parts of the collecting world). I assume ??? the numbers designate the manufacturing sequence. The Goo-Goo machine is numbered 049, and the Perfecto Gum Machine is 874.



Goo Goo Gum



Perfecto Gum

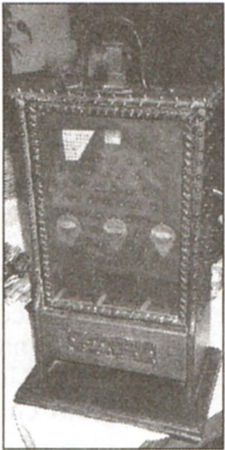
I remember when I showed the machines to Bill Enes at the Fall 1998 Chicagoland show he called other collectors over to look at them and told them to quit complaining that good finds don't show up anymore. The machines caught several eyes while carrying them through the aisles and several collectors stopped my wife and me to look at them and asked if they were for sale. THEY AREN'T!!!

THE FUN IS IN THE HUNT

by Bill Howard

The Atlantic City Sniff

Coin-op collectors sometimes have to ask themselves, "Do I take a chance?" A few asked that question and had their chance at the Fall 2000 Atlantic City Antique Show when, in a booth on Friday set-up day, there appeared a strange machine no one had ever seen before. At first, it appeared to be a Clawson Three Jack.



Clawson
Three Jack

However, a closer look revealed that it was slightly larger and had metal tips around the quarter-sawed case to discourage banging the machine. The case also had a hole that appeared to have been plugged with metal.

An inspection of the inside revealed that much of the three pay-out chutes were missing, so that the machine would not pay out or hold a coin. What got everyone buzzing was the fact that the machine played music every

time you inserted a nickel and pushed the lever down.

Agony prevailed over the better part of two days because many coin-op collectors and dealers couldn't decide whether to pay the high price the dealer asked. If the machine proved to be the first musical three jack ever to turn up, it was worth probably twice what potential purchaser might be left holding the bag rather than a good machine. Many potential suitors asked the following of themselves.

- 1.) Was the music box original
- 2.) Was it meant for the machine at hand
- 3.) Was the machine ever mass produced this way
- 4.) Were the parts interchangeable with a Clawson Three Jack so that the machine could be made to work as originally designed

Unless all the above questions could be answered "yes," the machine was trouble. All suitors, including yours truly, declined as the price went down.

The Santa Claus of the East

About two months after the "Atlantic City Sniff," I had occasion to visit Jay Lowe of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the "Santa Claus of the East." I spied this mystery machine as it sat in his basement. "What's going on here, H. Jay?" I asked. He explained that when the price got down to a few thousand at the end of the show, a friend of his took a chance and now wanted to sell it for what he paid and had dropped it off for Jay to "move." As I had to wait for Jay to repair a machine I had brought him, he suggested I look at it while I waited. As I did, tension increased. I was faced with the questions noted above, plus a new one. Why had so many people passed even at a lower price? At the same time, many things looked good. The "plus" in the case turned out to be a metal license embedded into the case that read, "License 123, 15 March 1895, San Francisco." The case itself had been cleaned off and looked stunning. A cardboard sign was cleaned and fastened to the front. It read, "Musical Machine. Drop a Nickel in the Slot and Hear Grover's Band." An inspection of the inside, without the pressure of show on-lookers, told me this was not "too good to be true," and the inner voice in all sick coin-op collectors whispered, "take a chance."

I thought of who I knew that had a Clawson Three Jack and the knowledge needed. I called the Godfather, Mike Gorski, of Westlake. When I got the Don on the phone, he reminded me that he didn't like partners, but suggested that I offer \$200 to bring the machine to Westlake. If we bought the machine, the \$200 would be applied to the price asked. If we didn't, we had to return the machine within two weeks at our expense and loose the \$200. H. Jay said, "Okay." I headed west with the machine and guarded optimism.

The Autopsy Report

Within days of getting home, I scurried to Westlake with the machine. I waited as nervous as a groom on his wedding day, while Brother Gorski poked and prodded and looked at his Clawson and then the mystery machine, and then his Clawson again and then at some books. Finally, I knew the news was

going to be good when he stopped and asked if I would consider being bought out. I declined. The music box was definitely for that machine originally, and that machine could be made to work from other Three Jack parts. All is good in Westlake.

The Call to Ottawa, Ohio

The question still remained as to whether this mystery machine had ever been offered on the market as a musical Three Jack. I searched and searched my ad bank and could find nothing. I decided to

call my good friend, Tom Gustwiller, our research champion. A few days later, I received a copy of an ad offering a musical Three Jack.

A Final Thought

In conclusion, it is amazing what good fortune, good friends, and knowledge can lead to sometimes. I learned a lot about taking a chance the right way, and hope other collectors have the good fortune I experienced.

Remember, the fun is in the hunt!

The Antique Hunt.....Bagging a Hollow Promise?

by Jack Kelly

Like many collectors of old coin-operated devices, my interests also spread to other types of antiques including cigar store memorabilia, certain styles of furniture, etc.

This topic of mixed tastes came up at at Midwest antique show several years ago and produced one of the most unusual items in my collection.

I was admiring a finely restored wash stand displayed in one dealer's booth and commented on how pretty the spoon carving was on the Eastlake design piece.

Oak Eastlake furniture with spoon carving is a personal favorite of mine.

The dealer thanked me for the compliment and as we talked I explained that I was a serious collector of coin-op and cigar store items.

He gave me an odd look and stammered, "I think this may be a lucky day for both you and me."

He was right.

Reaching under the table he dragged out a strange but interesting looking oak cathedral-shaped device that was definitely Eastlake, definitely spoon carved, definitely a cigar store piece --- and definitely coin operated!



*WC Doubleday
Cigar Vendor*

Ever had to pick your jaw up when it hit the floor?

The dealer explained he had purchased the device from a country auction a few days before the show and pointed out the brass nameplate perched on the front of the piece: DROP IN A NICKEL, PULL THE KNOB AND RECEIVE A "CATCHER" PURE HAVANA CIGAR. A smaller brass plate across the top read: Pat. March 1889.

Then came the bad news -- the internal mechanism was missing.

Opening the back door of the vendor revealed only remnants of a partial mouse next left by the former furry squatters. and a small portion of an instruction sheet.

continued....

Bagging a Hollow Promise (continued)

Anyone who has had a similar experience knows this is the point where the antiquer's philosophy takes over. Is the glass half full, or is it half empty -- or -- is it an empty wooden box, or a portion of a rare treasure?

To me there was no indecision. I had to have it.

In the months that followed the purchase, several inquiries to the U.S. Patent office finally brought results.

One day the mailman delivered a manilla envelope containing a two-sheet patent drawing and written description of the W.C. Doubleday Cigar Vending Apparatus, patent application filed September 10, 1888.

The inventor was listed as William C. Doubleday of Lima, Ohio.

Although the drawings were helpful, they did not offer enough detail to permit building a similar mechanism in order to complete the cigar vendor.

Now, several years later, several collectors say they may have seen similar machines, but cannot remember where.

The number stamped under the coin slot on my machine is 538, which would indicate hundreds we made, so there's a glimmer of hope my fabulous find may one day be complete.

I'll keep looking, no matter how long it takes.

Meanwhile, the spoon carved Eastlake cigar vendor sits on display with my other treasures. A beauty, even if incomplete.

For some the device might be called "just a shell, or part of a machine." But for me, its more than -- just a hollow promise.

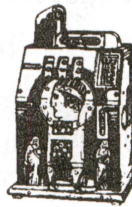
EDITORS NOTE: Author Jack Kelly owns a communications/marketing business in St. Joseph, Mich. He enjoys talking with other coin-op and cigar store memorabilia collectors and can be reached during the day at 616-983-0311 or in the evening at 616-983-6213

If you have a "Tale of the Hunt" that you would like to share, send it along with a photo or two to:

Jack Freund
P.O. Box 4
Springfield, WI 53176
or E-Mail to: jbgum@msn.com

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Has anyone reproduced the glass for the **Marvel Pop-Up Arcade Game?** I need 2 and would like to hear from you if you have. Nice originals would also be considered.

*Please contact Roger Hilden at (888) 596-4992 or
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CLASSIFIED ADS (continued)

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Mike Gumula, (336) 578-3592.

E-mail: mggslots@netpath.net or
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Larry Bieza, 1446 Albany Avenue
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